

From: RPAGES --VUS0212A
To: SPARRISH--VUS0212A Steve Parrish

Date and time 01/29/92 09:29:47

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From: Robert A. Pages
Subject: Wynder Proposal to VdC

Recommendation: PM should support the proposal and should do whatever it takes to see that the study gets started this year.

Comments/Background:

Title: Epidemiological Study of Lung Cancer in Japan and the United States

Length of Study: Two years (data gathering only; another year to write up)

Study Sponsor: Officially the sponsor will be the Forschungsrat (the Research Council on Smoking and Health). In reality the money will come from the Verband.

Cost: Year 1 - \$250,297; Year 2 - \$249,695 (these are US dollars). Of this, the VdC is committed to paying \$300,000 (\$150,000 each year). To come up with the remaining \$200,000 Adlkofer is asking for support from PM, RJR, and BAT. (The total cost is VERY cheap for a study of this type, especially in view of its complexity (see below). I take Wynder at his word that "...the budget proposed is incremental, i.e., we have other resources to cover basic infrastructure as well as more interviewer time in the US. Had it not been the case, the proposed study could never be carried out with the proposed budget.")

To save time I will not review the details of the proposal in this note. I will be sending you (and Chuck Wall) a copy of all of the material that I received from Walter Fink which includes: the proposal; peer review comments solicited by Adlkofer (these are excellent); and Wynder's response to the reviewer's comments.

What do we stand to gain if we support the study? It very likely to provide helpful data on both the primary and ETS issues. In the primary area, it should provide additional data on the importance of dietary and possibly familial factors which are associated with the incidence of lung cancer. (The differences in the dietary habits between Japanese and Americans, especially in the consumption of fats, is the key aspect of the study.) In the ETS area, the investigators will look at misclassification of ever smokers as never smokers and to what extent such misclassification may have contributed to the results reported by Hirayama. They will also examine to what extent uncontrolled confounding by other factors (diet, familial history of lung disease, etc.) may be responsible for the weak association between ETS exposure and lung cancer reported in some studies.

Down-side: I really don't see any. My major concern is how well they can carry out the study; i.e., have as few discrepancies between the Japan and US portions as possible. This requires a high degree of faith in the experience and capabilities of the investigators, which, given the circumstances, I have in this case. Wynder is the key.

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Final recommendation: You (or Chuck) should telephone Adlkofer to let him know of PM's decision. This should be done prior to Feb 23, 1992. The latter is the date set for the Forschungsrat meeting at which he will formally be soliciting their approval as the official sponsor of the study.

I am prepared to discuss the proposal, answer questions about it, etc., with you and/or Chuck at your convenience. Just let me know.

cc: CWALL --VUS0212A Charles R. Wall

Best regards,
Bob

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